

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 28 are now in the case.

Claims 18-27 have been canceled.

No Claim has been allowed.

Original Claims 6, 7, 10 and 11 have been objected to and indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Amendments.

Claim 1 has been rewritten to be in independent form to incorporate the limitations of original Claim 10 and Claims 6 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form. These changes were suggested by the Examiner for the purpose of obviating the objection of Claims 6, 7 and 10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Original Claim 10 is now dependent upon Claim 7. New Claim 28 parallels Claim 10, but is dependent upon Claim 6. No new matter has been introduced. Non-elected method Claims 18-27 have been canceled without prejudice to pursuing the subject matter thereof in a continuing application.

The Restriction Requirement.

Applicants hereby affirm the provisional election of Group I, Claims 1-17, made telephonically on April 18, 2005.

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In view of cancellation of non-elected Claims 18-27,
traversal of the requirement for restriction is now moot.

**The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)/Claims 1-3, 5, 8-9,
and 12-17.**

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-9, and 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weaver et al. in view of Skinner et al. Given that Claim 1 now incorporates the limitations of previously-objected to Claim 10, and given that the remaining Claims subject to this rejection are dependent upon Claim 1, this rejection is deemed to be fully obviated and its withdrawal is hereby requested.

The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)/Claim 4.

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weaver et al. in view of Skinner et al. and further in view of Fanta et al. Insofar as Claim 1 now incorporates the limitations of previously-objected to Claim 10, and insofar as Claim 4 is now dependent upon Claim 1, this rejection is deemed to be fully obviated and its withdrawal is hereby requested.

The Objection.

Claims 6, 10 and 11 objected to by the Examiner as

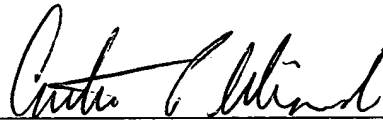
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being dependent upon a rejected base claim have now all been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. All the remaining Claims are dependent upon a claim indicated to be allowable if rewritten.

Summary.

All the claims in the case are now deemed to be free of the applied rejections and in condition for allowance. If the Examiner wishes to discuss any remaining issues in the case, she is invited to call the undersigned at (309) 681-6512.

Respectfully submitted,



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